

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Title is amended by the present response to be more clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,394,556 to Oprescu.¹

It is initially noted that each of the independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 17 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein.

Specifically, independent claim 1 now clarifies that the first command generating means generates a first reserve command for "inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device". Claim 1 also clarifies that the second command generating means generates a second reserve command for "permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device". The other independent claims 6, 11, 15, and 16 are similarly amended as in independent claim 1 noted above.

The above-identified features are believed to be clearly supported by the original specification. For example, the present specification at page 70, last paragraph, describes a generation of reserve commands, which in a non-limiting example can correspond to the claimed "first reserve command", and the specification at the middle of page 78 refers to vendor dependent reserve commands, which in a non-limiting example can correspond to the claimed "second reserve command".

The claims as currently written are directed to a device, system, or method in which a controller can control plural target devices connected to a data bus. In the claims, a first reserve command can be generated that can inhibit communication between one target device

¹ The statement of the rejection noted on page 2 of the Office Action indicates claims 1-15 are rejected, but the body of the rejection also refers to claims 16-17. The arguments presented to the allowability of the claims are directed to each of claims 1-17.

and another target device. In the claims as currently written the controller can also generate a second reserve command that operates "for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device". In one non-limiting example discussed in the present specification, and as also recited in certain of the dependent claims, see for example dependent claim 2, that specified command can provide authentication between the one and another target device. Such a non-limiting example of such a second reserve command is also discussed in the present specification for example at page 81, lines 5-16.

The features clarified in each of the independent claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Oprescu.

Oprescu is directed to a node identification system for use in a computer system in which various components of the system are interconnected via nodes on a communication bus.²

However, applicants respectfully submit that Oprescu does not disclose or suggest the generation of the two specific reserve commands clarified in the claims, and specifically a first reserve command that inhibits communication between one target device and another target device, and a second reserve command that permits transmission of a specified command between the one target device and the another target device.

Further, as noted above one specific implementation of the second reserve command is to permit transmission of authentication information between the one and another target device, as specifically required in dependent claims 2, 7 and 12. With respect to that feature specifically required in dependent claims 2, 7, and 12, the outstanding Office Action cites Oprescu at column 4, lines 21-26. However, applicants submit that Oprescu at column 4, lines 21-26, does not disclose any similar subject matter.

² Oprescu, Abstract

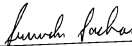
More specifically, at column 4, lines 21-26, Oprescu merely refers to providing a link between ports, that link being able to provide a half-duplex communication channel. At no point does Oprescu indicate that a second reserve command is generated that can permit transmission of a specified command between two target devices, which in a more narrow embodiment of the claimed invention provides authentication.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings of Oprescu.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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